

MORE ON SLOPER'S PREMISES

Dave Hill

I read with interest John Mathews' letter and the later information from Brian Smith in the last two Bulletins and wondered how I was going to use it. The following chronology is almost entirely from John Nelson's "Handbook of British Perfins".

- 1839 54 Oxford Street.
- 1858 215 Oxford Street (Sloper's patent for perforating bills and cheques.)
- 1865 106 High Street, Marylebone and 37 Walbrook.
- 1868 Walbrook House (is this just a grandiose name for No.37? Of course this is the start of perfins.)
- 1875 6 & 7 King William Street.
- 1878 20 King William Street (as the above was not thought, by the Post Office authorities, to be suitable for a Sub Post Office. Sloper complained bitterly that he had to surrender the lease on the former. 20 was on the rounded corner with Cannon Street. Rosemary has a photo of Queen Victoria's Jubilee procession rounding this corner with Sloper's in the background. I have seen this photo in other books) which was demolished in:
- 1914 22 Budge Row. Sloper's "Five Reigns" booklet was issued from here. This was blitzed in:
- 1942 New Bridge Street until 1972.

The "City" addresses are shown on the c1950 street guide.

From 1872 to 1991 Sloper's had premises at Tower Royal Works, West Hampstead.

Another query which John Mathews in far flung Australia may be able to answer. I have an 1865 London Directory on 2 CD's. There are three other Slopers listed, all mathematical rule and scale manufacturers:

William at 15 Lambeth Road, London S

Thomas at Hoxton, London N

Alfred at 42 New Kent Road, London SE.

I wondered, as Joseph had an obvious engineering leaning, whether they were family members?

I often cast around for new avenues of research, especially after getting blank looks from stamp dealers when I mention perfins, at the few stamp fairs I get to. I was even trying to think of a theme that I knew about and in which I could get interested. A germ of an idea was "London"; postcards of small places are quite avidly collected but many early London ones are cheap and I thought I would include illustrated letter headings and trade cards. I bought some postcards and am pleased they show lots of people, vehicles, advertising and, I realise now, not far from some of Sloper's premises.

This set me wondering if it was possible to find one actually showing Sloper's shop. The 20 King William street address seems to be the most possible location to be on a postcard, so I have a task for the next stamp fair. Can anyone find such a postcard before me?